

Town of East Haven, CT  
Recreation & Athletic Complex Special Meeting Minutes  
March 15, 2022  
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Members Present:

Chairman Pat Paulson  
Commissioner Ann Corris  
Commissioner Christine Uchich  
Commissioner Chris Murray

Staff Present:

Liz Franco-Spano, Director  
Charlie Coyle, Public Works

Public Present:

Frank Butler

Chairman Paulson called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. All those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Corris made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Uchich seconded. All were in favor; none were opposed and there were no abstentions. **MOTION CARRIED**

Correspondence

None

Reorganization to Elect a Vice-Chairperson of the Commission

Commissioner Murray made a **MOTION** to nominate Sue Crisafi as Vice-Chairperson of the Commission. Commissioner Corris seconded. Chairman Paulson asked three times if there were any other nominations. There were none. **MOTION CARRIED**

To Consider, Discuss and Possibly Act on Recommendation from the Recreation Director regarding the Skate Park

Director Franco-Spano stated that she met with Town Attorney Mike Luzzi and addressed the concerns she had for the skate park. There are numerous concerns with drinking, drugs, graffiti, and safety. Public Works Supervisor Charlie Coyle stated that they go and clean up the area and finds nips, garbage and unfortunately needles as well. The area is just not safe for the children. The Academy students use this area for recess. After speaking with other cities and towns Recreation Directors and Superintendents of Parks in North Haven and Branford, Director Franco-Spano was told that they closed their skate parks because of the same reasons as well as the liability. Insurance for the skate park is very high and increases every year. Director Franco-Spano would like to we are repurposing the courts so everyone will still be able to use for recreational activities as well as the adjacent schools using them.

Commissioner Corris asked about the lights, and she was told that the lights do go off by the courts at 10:00 pm. Commissioner Murray said based on the information given to the commission and also the recommendation from Director Franco-Spano, he made a **MOTION** to close the skate park. Commissioner Corris seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

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**Director's Report**

Director Liz Franco-Spano informed the commission that she is very happy to be up at Hays School now and was very pleased with the work that the Public Works department did to clean up the building and make some improvements and how they save the town a lot of money by doing things themselves. She is hoping to have a meeting up there one month.

**Update on Rink**

Director Liz Franco-Spano stated that the rink has been cleaned out, the flooring under the ice was in good shape, which is a good thing, and all else is status quo with it right now. They are hoping to open the rink in September 2022.

**Program Updates**

Director Liz Franco-Spano stated that she had around 49 programs planned and at least 36 have started. She is looking forward to the Fit in the Park program that will be held and run by Commissioner Uchich. She is having a STEM camp in May, Adult Bocce, summer and fall leagues and others just to name a few. She is working with the Board of Ed and the High School to help students get their community service. There will be a spring vacation camp and has 14 kids signed up for it already. Commissioner Uchich asked how the children get the notifications about activities in Town. Director Franco-Spano stated the Superintendent Forti gave her permission to send home some flyers until the MyRec website is up and running and families can sign up for that and get notifications of all programs going on.

Commissioner Murray asked if anything gets put in the Courier, and Director Franco-Spano said that was a good idea and she will get notifications in there. She is very happy with the way things are going right now and is looking forward to implementing other programs for the children of East Haven.

**Recognition of Service for Frank Butler, Sr.**

Director Liz Franco-Spano read the Citation from the Mayor and thanked Frank for his 29 years of service to the Town and the youth of East Haven. He has been a big help to the Director in the transition period when he was retiring. Frank Butler thanked everyone for acknowledging his time of service to the Town and for the Citation.

**To Consider and Act Upon Any Other Matter That May Come Before the Commission**

Chairman Paulson asked some questions about how to handle the teams that wish to use our fields for tournaments and games and practices. Director Franco-Spano stated that they should look into the fees for the groups that have asked as she stated she feels people aren't paying enough for using them. It's not even enough to cover the employees that have to paint the lines, clean up garbage and upkeep of the fields as well. She will meet with PW Supervisor Charlie Coyle to get a list of dates and fields that have already been requested and the fees as well to make sure the workers are at least covered.

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There being no further business to come before the commission, a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Murray and seconded by Commissioner Corris at 7:34 pm. All were in favor; none were opposed, and none abstained. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Linda S. LaLuna*

Linda S. LaLuna  
Clerk